

The Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A device for accurately metering a product comprising a housing outer part and an inner metering part having a dosing chamber and a piston block slideably mounted therein, with
5 the housing outer part comprising three passageways, and the dosing chamber being configured, dimensioned, and positioned to alternately connect two of the three passageways of the outer part.
2. A device according to claim 1, wherein the inner metering part is configured, dimensioned and positioned for rotation within the outer part.
- 10 3. A device according to claim 2, wherein the outer housing part and the inner metering part are mounted concentrically with the inner metering part and the inner metering part has only one degree of liberty in rotation around a central axis of rotation.
4. A device according to claim 2, wherein the passageways are arranged at an angular location of from 90 to less than 180 degrees from each other and the inner metering part
15 includes a chamber arranged across the part so as to connect two of the three passageways of the outer housing part upon each alternate rotation of the inner metering part.
5. The device according to claim 4, wherein the passageways are arranged at a angular location of from 100 to 140 degrees from each other and the chamber is arranged across the inner metering part so as to connect two of the three passageways of the outer part
20 upon each alternate rotation.
6. The device according to claim 4, wherein the passageways are arranged at a angular location of approximately 120 degrees from each other and the chamber is arranged across the inner metering part so as to connect two of the three passageways of the outer part upon each alternate rotation.
- 25 7. The device according to claim 5, wherein the dosing chamber is linear and arranged across the inner metering part so as to connect consecutively two of the three

passageways of the outer metering part in two different positions that are symmetrical to each other with relation to the axis of the third passageway upon each alternate rotation of the inner metering part.

- 5 8. A device according to claim 1, wherein every half-cycle of a complete operating cycle of the device results in the simultaneous filling and discharging of the same amount of a food product.
9. A device according to claim 1, wherein the dosing chamber includes emerging ends that form recesses to entrap the piston block in the inner metering part.
10. A device according to claim 1, having one inlet passageway and two outlet passageways.
- 10 11. A device according to claim 1, having two inlet passageways and one outlet passageway.
12. In a method for preparing a final food product, the improvement directing at least one fluid food product to the device of claim 1 so as to accurately meter and dispense the fluid food product(s) therefrom to assist in preparing the final food product.
13. The method of claim 12 wherein the device has one inlet passageway and two outlet
15 passageways so that the fluid food product can be metered and dispensed onto two adjacent production lines.
14. The method of claim 12 wherein the device has two inlet passageways and one outlet passageway so that two fluid food products can be metered and dispensed simultaneously.
15. The method of claim 12, wherein the inner metering part is configured, dimensioned and
20 positioned for rotation within the outer part to meter and dispense the fluid food product.